
**Guthrie, D.A., "Bird Surveys along the Santa Clara River and Its Tributaries
near Valencia, California, 1996" (July 10, 1996; 1996A)**

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**BIRD SURVEYS ALONG THE SANTA CLARA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES
NEAR VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA, 1996**

Prepared for:

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July 10, 1996

*esting areas Santa
Castaño Creek
Clara near
MacMh.*

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Nature and Scope of Surveys

During the spring and early summer of 1996 surveys were conducted along a section of the Santa Clara River and its tributaries in the vicinity of Valencia, California to determine presence or absence of Least Bell's Vireo and other Species of Concern. Numbers of all species observed were noted, and special attention was placed on locating species considered rare and endangered.

Each survey was conducted on foot by observers well acquainted with both visual and auditory patterns of southern California birds. All surveys occurred between 6 and 10 a.m. If no vireos were found during the first two surveys, calls of Least Bell's Vireo were played during subsequent censuses to elicit response from territorial males. Survey routes were designed to cover all areas of each section of the river, with emphasis placed on wetter habitats where Least Bell's Vireos and other sensitive riparian species are most likely to occur. Personnel for all surveys were Daniel A. Guthrie, Richard F. Clements, and Judith A. Sugden.

To facilitate surveys, the area was divided into eight sections (Figure 1). Delineation of the eight areas and comments on each follow. Surveys of the normally dry sections of the river system (Areas 7 - 8) where Least Bell's Vireos have not been observed in the past were conducted twice during the nesting season. The second survey was delayed until June to insure that late arriving species such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Willow Flycatcher would not be missed. Surveys of the remaining sections of the Santa Clara River (Areas 1 -6) were conducted according to the protocol outlined by the Fish and Wildlife Service (Appendix 1), except that surveys were limited to 6 in number.

Habitat Condition and Bird Observations.

Rainfall during 1996 was good during winter months, but there was little rainfall during the spring, resulting in fairly dry conditions away from the river and little runoff. The result was generally dry conditions in intermittent sections of streams, such as Castaic Creek and San Francisquito Creek. However, lack of spring flooding resulted in luxuriant growth along the main section of the Santa Clara river.

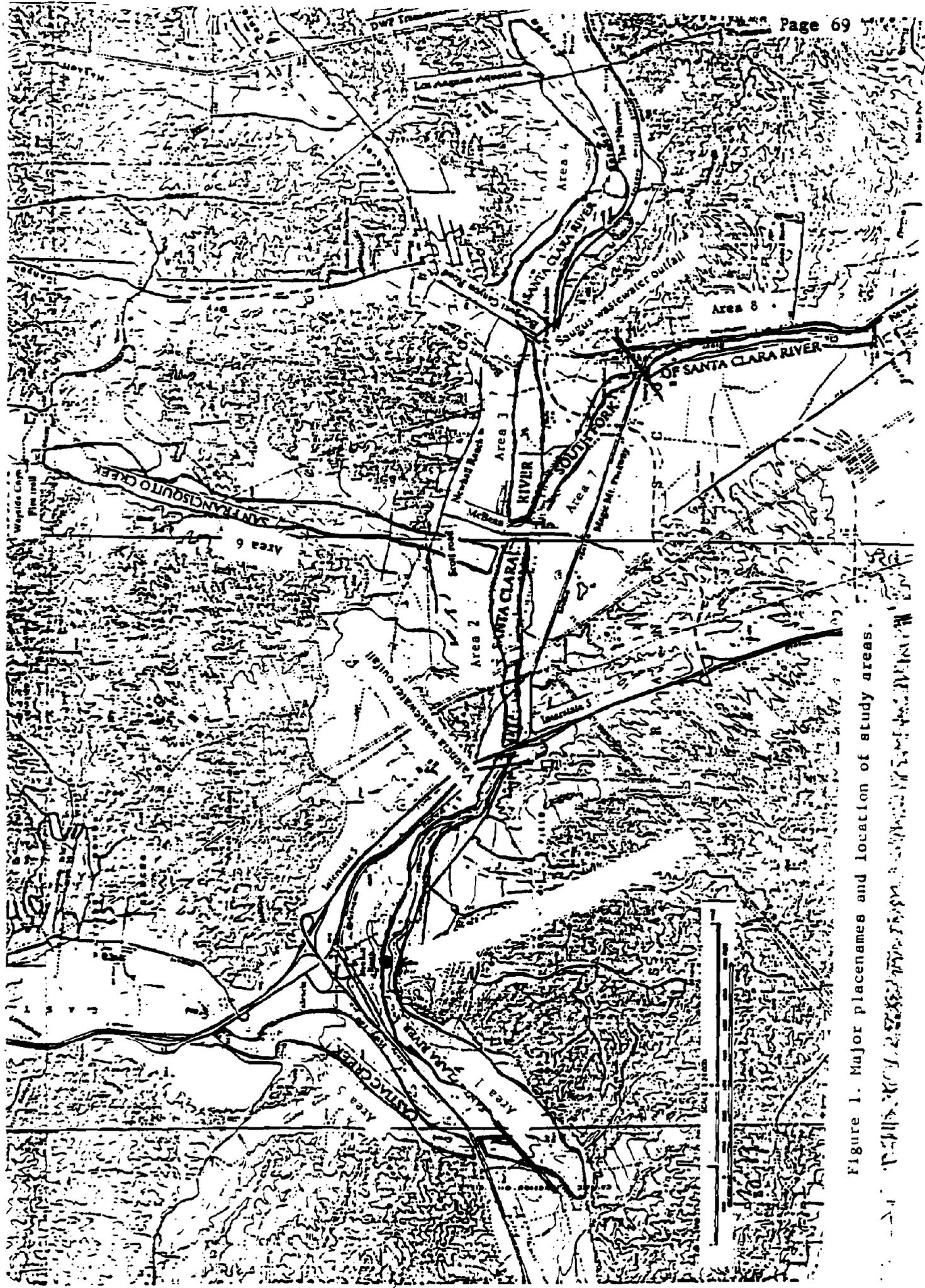


Figure 1. Major placenames and location of study areas.

Tables 1 through 8 present bird observations in each of the specific study areas for 1995. Different species breed at different times of the year. In general, species are most easily observed when they are actively defending territories by song during the establishment of breeding pairs. Once pairs are established and nesting begins song often decreases and the numbers of birds observed, therefore, also decreases. After young leave the nest, numbers observed increase. Thus, for most resident species, numbers of adult birds are most accurately censused in April and May, when territorial activity is at a maximum. A few species such as Anna's Hummingbird that nest early in the season may be underestimated. Numbers observed may decrease slightly in June and early July when birds are less active during nesting, and increase in late June and July when young birds leave the nest.

Several species that are not considered riparian species but are common in adjacent coastal sage and chaparral habitats come into the riparian zone in late summer when other vegetational areas are dry. The increase in numbers of Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow, House Finch, Phainopepla and Mourning Dove in late June follow this trend.

Following are specific comments on the habitat and bird observations in each area.

Area 1. Santa Clara River; Old Highway to the mouth of Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence to State Route 126.

Length of section, 3.5 miles. The Santa Clara River flows continuously in this section and is augmented by the Valencia waste water outfall near the upstream end of this section. Near Castaic Junction, a low area on the south side of the river is kept wet by runoff from Magic Mountain. The result is a thick forest of willows in which two singing Least Bell's Vireos were found (Fig. 2; see additional comments in section on Least Bell's Vireo).

Area 2. Santa Clara River; Old Highway to McBean Parkway.

Length of section, 1.4 miles. The Santa Clara River flows continuously in this section. The channel is braided and wet riparian vegetation is well developed along this section of the river. As in previous years, this area was heavily impacted by off road vehicles during the study period. However, vehicles remained for the most part in the unvegetated section of the river channel.

Area 3. Santa Clara River; McBean Parkway to Boquet Canyon Road.

Length of section, 1.2 miles. Water, supplied by the Saugus wastewater outfall at the Boquet Canyon Bridge, is continuous in this section of the Santa Clara River. Riparian vegetation was considerably improved over past years.

Area 4. Santa Clara River; Boquet Canyon Road upstream to DWP transmission lines.

Length of section, 2.3 miles. This section of the Santa Clara River in past years has been wet only briefly during spring rains. and due to water release from the DWP aqueduct 2.0 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon Road. This year water flowed only in a section below the pipeline, disappearing into the sand after about 1/2 mile. The result was fewer riparian species compared with 1995 when water was more abundant.

Area 5. Castaic Creek; Route 125 to Old Road next to Interstate 5.

Length of section, 1.8 miles. Because of low spring rains there was no release of water from upstream dams during the study period and, except for a short section receiving water from street runoff at the north end of the section, and a pond at the east side of the creek, this section was dry during the study period. The result was many fewer riparian species compared to last year when water flowed continuously throughout the study. Two singing Least Bell's Vireos were observed along this section in an area where they have been found in previous years (Fig. 2; see additional comments on section on Least Bell's Vireo).

Area 6. San Francisquito Creek; Santa Clara River upstream 2.5 miles.

Length of section, 2.5 miles. This section was dry throughout the study period, except for a short section near a well at the middle of the section where water flowed during April and May. There were many fewer riparian species compared to last year when this section contained flowing water.

Area 7. South Fork of the Santa Clara River; McBean Parkway to Magic Mountain Parkway (Route 126).

Length of section, 1.0 miles. The channel along this section of the South Fork is narrow and very sandy. Almost all vegetation along the bottom of the channel was removed by spring floods. Some standing water was present near the McBean bridge.

Area 8. South Fork of the Santa Clara River, Route 126 upstream to Newhall Creek.

Length of section, 1.4 miles. This section of the river was dry except for damp areas formed by runoff from culverts along the west side of the creek. Cattails developed in these wet areas supported fewer Song Sparrows than in previous years and no Redwing Blackbirds, perhaps a sign of human disturbance near the wet areas.

Comments on Sensitive Species

Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's Hawk is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Coopers hawks were observed on all sections of the main river in 1996, There were probably three pair present, one more than were found in 1995. This species is a resident that nests and hunts in riparian woodland habitat.

White-tailed Kite

This species, formerly the Black-shouldered Kite, is considered "Special" by the State of California. The pair of kites that nested in the dry woodland on the north side of the Santa Clara River near the confluence with Castaic Creek in 1995 was not found in 1996, perhaps disturbed by road construction. A single kite was observed along San Francisquito Creek and may have nested upstream from the study section.

Willow Flycatcher

This species is considered a Category 1 Candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Willow Flycatchers were once widespread in wet riparian woodland in southern California but now only a few individuals exist. The main California breeding populations of this species are along the Kern River and in northern California. Individuals of this species have been observed in previous years during late May and early June. A single bird was observed on May 17 but could not be relocated on subsequent visits. This was probably a migrant passing through the area.

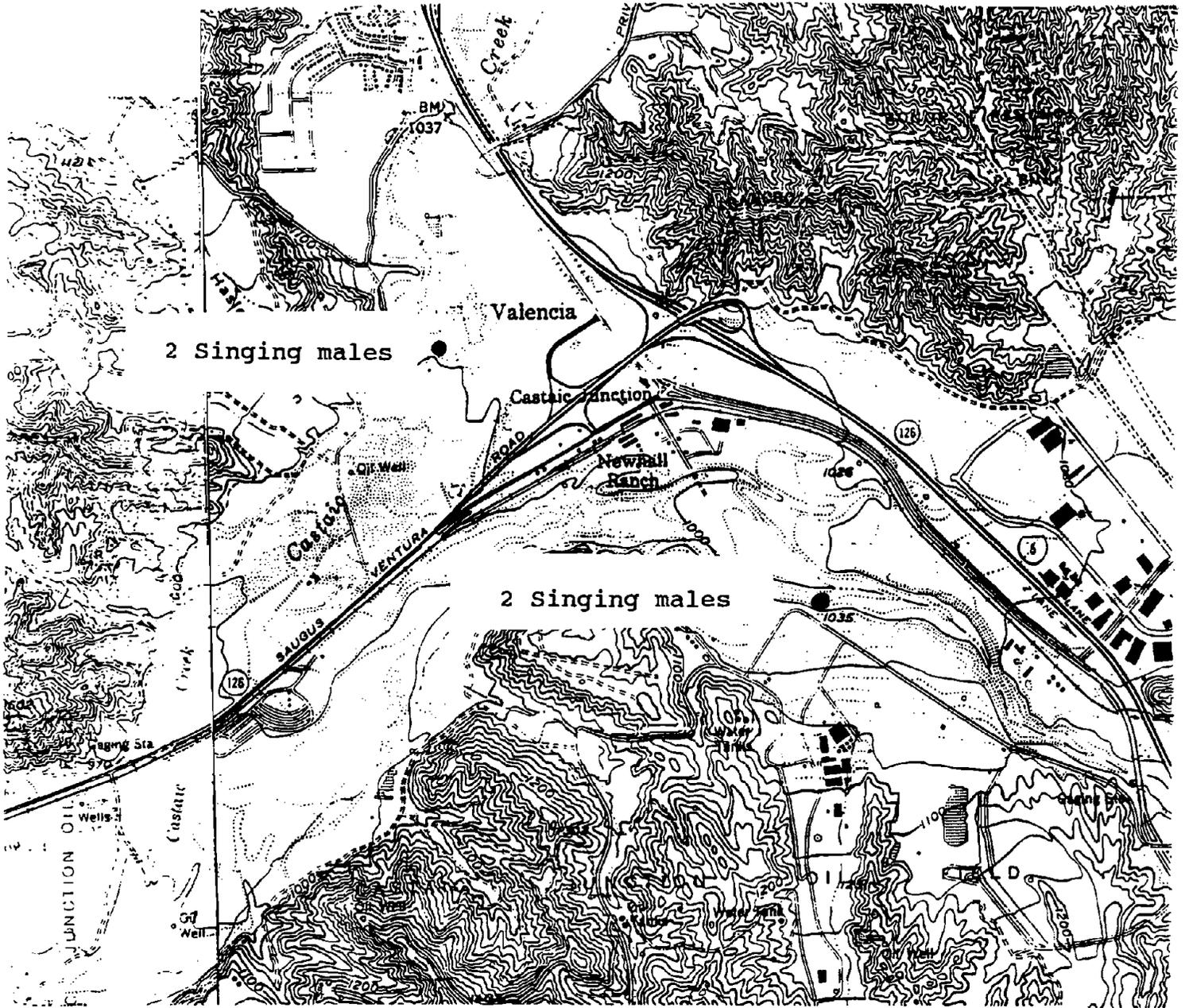
California Horned Lark

This species is a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Horned Larks nest on dry hillsides above Castaic Creek and were observed in late summer on plowed fields adjacent to the Castaic Creek and near the main river at Castaic Junction.

Least Bell's Vireo

Two singing Least Bell's Vireos were observed along Castaic Creek, as indicated in Figure 2. As only males, sing, this was considered evidence of two territorial males. In order to avoid disturbance of possibly nesting birds, no search for nests or mates was conducted. However, on July 12 one of these birds was

Figure 2. Location of Least Bell's Vireo Sightings in 1995



accompanied by a juvenile, suggesting successful nesting. The area where they were found was mostly cleared of vegetation by floods in 1993 but, due to recent wet years and lack of flooding, is now covered with dense early succession riparian growth. This dense low vegetation is the type in which Least Bell's Vireos usually nest.

Least Bell's Vireos were discovered for the first time on the south side of the Santa Clara River near Magic Mountain (Fig. 2). This area is a low lying section separated from the main river channel by sand bars. It receives runoff water from Magic Mountain. Due to flood damage, there were no birds or habitat present in this area in 1993 and 1994 and birds were probably not present here in 1995, although the area was not searched thoroughly that year. Although birds were heard in four different places on May 13th, males often follow an intruder, singing from different locations. On subsequent visits, only two singing birds could be found, suggesting that only two territories were in this area. Again, in order to avoid disturbance of possibly nesting birds, no search for nests or mates was conducted. However, based on the observation of a juvenile bird on June 25th, at least one of these birds mated and nested.

Yellow Warbler

The Yellow Warbler is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Yellow Warblers prefer wet riparian habitat but are also found in large cottonwoods in drier riparian areas. Singing yellow warblers were observed along every section of the Santa Clara River and Castaic Creek. The drop in numbers observed between May and June indicate that most of the earlier birds observed were migrants passing through the area. Numbers of Yellow Warblers were reduced from 1995, especially along Castaic and San Francisquito Creeks due to drier conditions.

Yellow-breasted Chat

The yellow-breasted chat is considered a Species of Special Concern by the State of California. Chats were observed sparingly along the wet sections of the Santa Clara River. Numbers were about the same as 1995.

Tricolored Blackbird

The tricolored blackbird is a Category 2 Candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. A colony of about 200 breeding pairs of this species occupied a small marsh area along the side of the Santa Clara River at Castaic Junction and another smaller group of about 20 pair nested in a pond beside Castaic Creek in 1994. In years prior to 1994 this species was not

observed. During 1995 and again this year a small number of tricolored blackbirds appeared in April and May and inspected the Castaic Creek site. However, the birds apparently found the site unsuitable and did not attempt to breed.

Table 1. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Santa Clara River from Old Highway along I-5 to the mouth of Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence to State Route 126.

Species	date:	4/28	5/13	5/21	6/12	6/25	7/9	status
Great Egret		1	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Snowy Egret		8	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Green Heron		1	1	5	1	-	4	R*
Mallard		6	3	7	-	-	-	R*
Turkey Vulture		-	-	-	-	1	-	S
Cooper's Hawk		-	-	1	-	1	-	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk		3	-	1	4	5	3	R*
Red-tailed Hawk		2	2	-	-	3	2	R*
American Kestrel		-	-	1	-	-	1	R*
California Quail		15	4	22	2	17	24	R*
Killdeer		7	12	20	6	4	-	R*
Spotted Sandpiper		2	8	5	-	7	3	S*
Least Sandpiper		4	-	-	-	-	-	M
Domestic Pigeon		17	34	1	-	-	1	R*
Mourning Dove		19	-	14	-	17	14	R*
Vaux's Swift		4	-	-	-	-	-	M
White-th. Swift		-	-	11	-	3	3	R*
Black-ch. Hummingbird		2	1	1	1	1	4	S
Anna's Hummingbird		12	7	10	10	6	27	R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker		5	5	7	8	12	9	R*
Downy Woodpecker		-	1	6	4	7	10	R*
Hairy Woodpecker		-	2	3	1	3	2	R*
Northern Flicker		1	-	2	-	3	2	R*
Pac.-slope Flycatcher		1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Black Phoebe		-	3	3	3	11	9	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher		14	13	9	3	14	17	S*
Western Kingbird		-	-	3	-	-	3	S*
Tree Swallow		1	-	2	-	5	-	S*
Violet-green Swallow		-	-	-	-	3	3	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow		11	22	21	20	83	11	S*
Barn Swallow		-	-	-	4	-	-	S
Cliff Swallow		130	120	150	40	118	34	S*
Scrub Jay		20	8	11	11	14	20	R*
American Crow		14	19	10	11	21	36	R*
Common Raven		6	-	4	1	22	15	R*
Plain Titmouse		10	17	9	7	7	2	R*
Bushtit		11	8	8	14	4	12	R*
Canyon Wren		-	-	-	-	-	1	R?
Bewick's Wren		39	26	34	23	37	57	R*
House Wren		6	50	13	11	14	1	R*
Western Bluebird		-	1	4	-	3(2)	-	R*
Swainson's Thrush		-	-	1	-	-	-	M
American Robin		2	-	-	-	-	1	R*
Wrentit		-	-	1	-	-	3	R*
Calif. Thrasher		2	1	3	-	3	5	R*

Table 1 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Santa Clara River from Old Highway along I-5 to the mouth of Castaic Creek and Castaic Creek from this confluence to State Route 126.

Species	date:	4/28	5/13	5/21	6/12	6/25	7/9	status
Phainopepla		-	2	-	-	31	41	R*
European Starling		15	15	12	4	2	6	R*
Bell's Vireo		-	4	-	-	3	1	S*
Orange-cr. Warbler		1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler		8	11	13	9	5	1	S*
Common Yellowthroat		15	33	49	44	33	67	R*
Wilson's Warbler		2	2	7	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat		1	-	4	5	5	9	S*
Western Tanager		1	-	8	-	-	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak		5	6	15	18	15	5	S*
Blue Grosbeak		3	-	3	2	13	13	S*
Lazuli Bunting		-	-	1	9	35	31	S*
Spotted Towhee		11	14	19	8	24	5	R*
California Towhee		13	26	30	10	11	9	R*
Lark Sparrow		-	-	-	-	-	29	R
Song Sparrow		68	105	104	54	87	77	R*
White-cr. Sparrow		1	-	-	-	-	-	W
Red-winged Blackbird		12	49	24	23	5	23	S*
Tricolored Redwing		6	-	-	-	-	-	M
Brewer's Blackbird		-	-	1	-	-	-	R*
Brown-headed Cowbird		19	26	17	6	1	46	S*
Bullock's Oriole		1	1	2	1	1	2	S*
House Finch		15	4	6	35	74	68	R*
Lesser Goldfinch		7	2	5	10	7	24	R*
American Goldfinch		8	-	2	-	1(1)	-	W,M
House Sparrow		-	-	-	2	-	-	R*
Total Species:		51	39	53	37	48	50	
Total Individuals:		723	668	725	425	805	796	

Total Species on all visits: 71

Total Probable Breeding species: 54 (marked with *)

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only

() = dependent young birds

Censuses of 4/28, 5/21, 7/9
Censuses of 5/13, 6/12, 6/25

on the north side of river,
on south side of river.

Table 2. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Santa Clara River from McBean Parkway to Old Highway along I-5.

Species	date: 4/28	5/10	5/21	6/12	6/25	7/9	status
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	1	
American Bittern	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Snowy Egret	1	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Green Heron	1	2	-	-	-	-	R*
Bl. cr. Night Heron	-	-	1	-	-	-	M
Mallard	4	4	1	2	1	1	R*
Cooper's Hawk	2	-	-	1	1	-	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	2	2	3	4	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	2	2	3	1	1	-	R*
California Quail	17	6	6	4	-	4	R*
Killdeer	4	8	5	2	-	-	R*
Spotted Sandpiper	1	2	-	-	-	-	S*
Mourning Dove	4	2	-	-	1	1	R*
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	R*
Vaux's Swift	10	-	-	-	-	-	M
Bl.-ch. Hummingbird	2	-	-	-	-	-	S
Anna's Hummingbird	-	2	3	1	1	2	R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	2	7	1	11	4	6	R*
Downy Woodpecker	-	1	1	1	3	3	R*
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-	-	1	1	-	R*
Northern Flicker	1	-	-	2	-	-	R*
Pac.-slope Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	M
Black Phoebe	2	2	2	6	8	9	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	3	4	3	8	4	5	S*
Western Kingbird	1	-	-	-	-	1	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	22	34	10	31	54	3	S*
Cliff Swallow	-	-	6	-	28	17	S*
Scrub Jay	4	4	6	-	1	3	R*
American Crow	9	24	6	11	10	3	R*
Common Raven	-	4	-	2	2	-	R*
Plain Titmouse	3	2	2	4	6	8	R*
Bushtit	5	2	11	9	3	11	R*
White-br. Nuthatch	-	-	1	3	1	-	R*
Bewick's Wren	23	6	21	15	11	12	R*
House Wren	8	3	7	3	5	-	R*
Western Bluebird	2	2	-	5	-	-	R*
Wrentit	-	-	1	1	-	1	R*
Calif. Thrasher	1	2	1	2	-	-	R*
Cedar Waxwing	20	-	15	-	-	-	W
Phainopepla	-	-	-	-	2	1	R*
European Starling	15	9	8	13	1	9	R*
Warbling Vireo	3	-	-	-	-	-	M
Orange-cr. Warbler	4	-	1	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	7	5	3	1	4	-	S*

Table 2 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Santa Clara River from McBean Parkway to Old Highway along I-5.

Species	date: 4/28	5/10	5/21	6/12	6/25	7/9	status
Yellow- r. Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Bl.-th. Gray Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	6	16	5	3	R*
Wilson's Warbler	1	2	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat	1	1	1	-	-	-	S*
Western Tanager	1	2	-	-	-	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak	4	4	3	7	2	8	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	1	-	-	2	3	S*
Lazuli Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	8	S*
Spotted Towhee	9	2	7	5	9	8	R*
California Towhee	3	2	2	6	6	3	R*
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	11	R
Song Sparrow	35	24	37	36	11	22	R*
White-cr. Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	W
Red-winged Blackbird	8	25	3	-	-	-	S*
Brown-headed Cowbird	7	21	10	5	1	12	S*
Bullock's Oriole	1	2	-	-	-	-	S*
House Finch	4	4	11	5	11	39	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	-	-	6	9	6	5	R*
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	-	2	-	-	-	R*
American Goldfinch	-	-	-	2	-	-	W,M
Total Species:	47	37	38	35	34	32	
Total Individuals:	264	230	216	235	210	225	

Total Species on all visits: 65

Total Probable Breeding species: 48 (marked with *)

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only

() = dependent young birds

Censuses of 4/28, 5/21, 6/25 on the north side of river,
Censuses of 5/10, 6/12, 7/9 on south side of river.

Table 3. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Santa Clara River from Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean Parkway.

Species	date:4/20	5/6	5/17	6/10	6/24	7/8	status
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	1	-	-	M
Green Heron	-	-	-	-	-	2	R*
Mallard	1	2	2	-	3	-	R*
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	1	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	1	3	2	1	1	2	R*
California Quail	7	15	7	-	6	6	R*
Killdeer	2	5	7	8	4	4	R*
Spotted Dove	1	-	-	-	-	-	R*
Mourning Dove	12	6	2	3	6	2	R*
Roadrunner	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Barn Owl	3	-	-	-	-	-	R*
Vaux's Swift	5	-	-	-	-	-	M
Bl.-ch. Hummingbird	2	-	-	-	-	-	S
Anna's Hummingbird	1	3	3	3	2	3	R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	3	2	3	4	2	3	R*
Downy Woodpecker	3	-	-	2	1	1	R*
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Northern Flicker	-	-	1	1	2	-	R*
Black Phoebe	4	5	5	5	3	6	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	5	2	-	-	2	4	S*
Western Kingbird	17	4	3	-	-	4	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	-	13	9	11	35	6	S*
Barn Swallow	6	-	-	-	-	5	S
Cliff Swallow	22	-	2	-	4	21	S*
Scrub Jay	3	7	6	4	5	6	R*
American Crow	13	4	35	30	24	25	R*
Common Raven	5	30	15	30	8	45	R*
Plain Titmouse	-	-	-	1	-	-	R*
Bushtit	5	4	5	4	6	7	R*
Bewick's Wren	7	9	5	1	2	6	R*
Robin	-	-	-	-	2	-	R
Calif. Thrasher	2	2	4	1	1	2	R*
European Starling	-	4	-	-	-	-	R*
Orange-cr. Warbler	9	1	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	2	4	2	-	1	-	S*
Yellow-r. Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Bl.-th. Grey Warbler	-	2	-	-	-	-	M
Common Yellowthroat	2	1	5	3	5	3	R*
Wilson's Warbler	-	2	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat	-	1	-	-	-	-	S*
Western Tanager	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Black-h. Grosbeak	10	8	4	1	-	1	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	1	2	-	2	1	S*

Table 3. (cont.) Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Santa Clara River from Boquet Canyon Rd. to McBean Parkway.

Species	date: 4/20	5/6	5/17	6/10	6/24	7/8	status
Lazuli Bunting	-	-	-	2	2	2	S*
Spotted Towhee	2	6	3	2	2	1	R*
California Towhee	1	4	3	2	3	3	R*
Song Sparrow	24	18	15	15	18	8	R*
White-cr. Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	-	W
Red-winged Blackbird	-	4	21	25	21	21	S*
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	5	7	8	-	3	S*
Bullock's Oriole	4	-	3	1	5	9	S*
House Finch	4	4	10	18	19	43	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	25	2	2	4	2	3	R*
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	-	2	-	-	-	R*
House Sparrow	-	2	2	2	4	-	R*
Total Species:	38	36	32	29	32	33	
Total Individuals:	225	187	197	193	203	259	

Total Species on all visits: 55

Total Probable Breeding species: 44 (marked with *)

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only

() = dependent young birds

Table 4. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Santa Clara River from Power Line 2.5 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon Rd. to Boquet Canyon Road Crossing.

Species	date: 4/20	5/6	5/17	6/10	6/24	7/8	status
Mallard	1	2	-	-	-	-	R*
Cooper's Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	-	1	1	2	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	3	1	2	2	R*
American Kestrel	1	-	-	-	-	-	R*
California Quail	35	22	34	34	73	15	R*
Killdeer	6	2	2	1	-	-	R*
Domestic Pigeon	-	-	1	32	-	25	R*
Mourning Dove	9	3	16	18	35	17	R*
Roadrunner	1	-	3	1	-	1	R*
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	2	-	R*
Chimney Swift	-	-	1	-	-	-	M
Vaux's Swift	24	-	-	-	-	-	M
White-th. Swift	-	-	4	-	-	-	R
Black-ch. Hummingbird	-	-	6	-	1	5	S
Anna's Hummingbird	4	2	2	3	8	20	R*
Costa's Hummingbird	-	1	1	1	2	1	S
Nuttall's Woodpecker	3	3	10	1	8	8	R*
Downy Woodpecker	-	-	1	4	-	5	R*
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	-	1	-	1	R*
Northern Flicker	1	1	2	-	-	1	R*
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	M
Black Phoebe	-	-	1	-	-	-	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	1	-	4	3	1	9	S*
Western Kingbird	2	2	2	-	-	14	S*
Violet-green Swallow	4	-	-	-	-	-	S
N. Rough-w. Swallow	1	3	12	2	10	9	S*
Barn Swallow	2	-	1	1	-	-	S
Cliff Swallow	-	-	10	3	20	8	S*
Scrub Jay	11	9	19	11	14	16	R*
American Crow	1	2	7	5	35	11	R*
Common Raven	16	15	9	4	7	27	R*
Plain Titmouse	-	-	1	-	-	2	R*
Bushtit	5	4	10	14	8	8	R*
Bewick's Wren	24	25	21	14	15	17	R*
House Wren	-	-	1	-	-	2	R*
Western Bluebird	-	2	2	-	-	-	R*
Swainson's Thrush	-	1	-	-	-	-	M
American Robin	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Wrentit	5	4	5	7	6	2	R*
N. Mockingbird	-	1	2	6(2)	4	7	R*
Calif. Thrasher	5	2	7	3	5(3)	6	R*
Phainopepla	-	2	27	14	8	8	R*
European Starling	1	3	1	2	1	-	R*

Table 4 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Santa Clara River from Power Line 2.5 miles upstream from Boquet Canyon Rd. to Boquet Canyon Road Crossing.

Species	date: 4/20	5/6	5/17	6/10/6/24	7/8	status	
Warbling Vireo	-	1	2	-	-	M	
Orange-cr. Warbler	6	1	-	-	-	M	
Yellow Warbler	-	6	7	2	1	1	S*
Yellow- r. Warbler	3	1	-	-	-	-	W,M
Bl.-thr. Grey Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	M
Common Yellowthroat	3	2	-	12	3	3	R*
Wilson's Warbler	-	3	1	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat	-	-	2	-	-	-	S*
Western Tanager	-	3	-	-	-	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak	-	1	2	2	7	2	S*
Blue Grosbeak	1	-	1	1	3	4	S*
Lazuli Bunting	-	1	2	1(3)	1(4)	1	S*
Spotted Towhee	8	7	15	11	8(3)	6	R*
California Towhee	5	9	16	18	31	18	R*
Song Sparrow	16	13	22	32	8	23	R*
Red-winged Blackbird	6	27	11	8	5	-	S*
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	2	-	-	R*
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	1	-	-	-	R*
Brown-headed Cowbird	22	4	9	11	3	7	S*
Hooded Oriole	-	-	2	3	-	1	S*
Bullock's Oriole	4	8	7	2	20	2	S*
House Finch	14	20	32	33	82	92	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	5	6	-	2	12	14	R*
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
House Sparrow	-	-	1	2	-	-	R*
Total Species:	36	42	52	42	35	41	
Total Individuals:	257	227	363	334	460	423	

Total Species on all visits: 69

Total Probable Breeding species: 54 (marked with *)

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only

() = dependent young birds

Censuses of 5/6, 5/15, 6/24 on the north side of river,
Censuses of 4/20, 6/10, 7/8 on south side of river.

Table 5. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,
1996: Castaic Creek from Old Road west to Rte. 126.

Species	date: 4/28	5/13	5/21	6/12	6/25	7/9	status
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	1	1	W,M
Green Heron	-	2	1	-	-	-	R*
Bl. cr. Night Heron	8	-	1	-	-	1	M
Mallard	-	2	-	-	-	-	R*
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	-	1	-	-	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	3	-	1	3	2	-	R*
American Kestrel	-	1	1	-	-	-	R*
California Quail	12	18	20	21	28	29	R*
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	M?
Killdeer	-	-	2	2	-	-	R*
Domestic Pigeon	3	2	7	2	1	2	R*
Mourning Dove	6	4	5	7	5	3	R*
Bl.-ch. Hummingbird	2	-	-	-	-	-	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	4	5	5	1	3	7	R*
Costa's Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	2	S
Acorn Woodpecker	1	-	-	-	-	-	R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	4	5	2	3	3	6	R*
Downy Woodpecker	-	-	1	-	1	1	R*
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	1	-	-	-	R*
Northern Flicker	1	1	3	2	2	2	R*
Black Phoebe	1	3	2	-	4	6	R*
Say's Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	M?
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	4	4	4	4	3	-	S*
Western Kingbird	3	-	1	-	1	3	S*
Horned Lark	-	-	2	-	-	25	R
Violet-green Swallow	7	4	-	-	-	-	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	110	51	53	43	46	22	S*
Cliff Swallow	-	9	12	6	10	11	S*
Scrub Jay	6	12	11	9	12	8	R*
American Crow	4	5	3	14	9	5	R*
Common Raven	4	2	1	8	3	6	R*
Plain Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	3	R
Bushtit	2	3	6	9	9	9	R*
Bewick's Wren	9	9	15	5	5	3	R*
Western Bluebird	-	1	2	-	-	-	R*
Wrentit	-	2	-	-	2	2	R*
Calif. Thrasher	1	4	2	2	4	-	R*
Phainopepla	-	-	-	-	2	-	R*
European Starling	7	5	2	6	2	-	R*
Bell's Vireo	2	2	2	2 (1)	-	-	S*
Solitary Vireo	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	-	3	2	1	-	-	S*
Yellow-r. Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
Common Yellowthroat	7	3	3	12	4	2	R*

Table 5 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: Castaic Creek from Old Road west to Rte. 126.

Species	date: 4/28	5/13	5/21	6/12	6/25	7/9	status
Yellow-br. Chat	2	2	-	1	-	-	S*
Western Tanager	4	-	1	-	-	-	M
Black-h. Grosbeak	10	9	7	5	5	4	S*
Blue Grosbeak	6	5	4	2	2	4	S*
Lazuli Bunting	1	1	-	-	2	-	S*
Spotted Towhee	4	10	6	8	3	1	R*
California Towhee	5	8	10	7	6	11	R*
Song Sparrow	16	21	16	26	17	13	R*
Red-w. Blackbird	150	175	172	60	-	2	S*
Tricolored Redwing	6	-	-	-	-	-	S
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	22	9	4	-	6	S*
Bullock's Oriole	6	5	9	2	2	2	S*
House Finch	8	13	31	39	43	48	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	6	4	2	6	5	5	R*
Total Species:	41	42	41	33	33	35	
Total Individuals:	449	437	440	324	247	256	

Total Species on all visits: 58

Total Probable Breeding species: 46 (marked with *)

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only

() = dependent young birds

Censuses of 5/13, 5/21, 6/25 on the north side of river,
Censuses of 4/28, 6/12, 7/9 on south side of river.

Table 6. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,
1996: San Francisquito Creek for 2 Miles above Main Channel.

Species	date: 4/25	5/10	5/17	6/10	6/24	7/8	status
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	1	-	W,M
Green Heron	1	-	-	-	-	-	R*
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	-	1	-	S
White-tailed Kite	1	-	-	-	-	1	R*
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	-	1	1	-	R*
Red-tailed Hawk	2	2(3)	2(3)	2	2	2	R*
California Quail	87	42	38	18	36	20	R*
Killdeer	5	7	2	3	1	1	R*
Domestic Pigeon	-	6	2	-	-	4	R*
Mourning Dove	61	12	8	10	6	21	R*
Roadrunner	-	-	-	-	-	1	R*
Bl.-ch. Hummingbird	1	1	1	-	2	-	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	10	3	3	5	5	12	R*
Costa's Hummingbird	2	1	1	-	-	-	S*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	5	5	11	3	4(3)	7	R*
Downy Woodpecker	-	2	-	-	2	2	R*
Northern Flicker	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Black Phoebe	1	-	3	1	1	-	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	5	2	5	5	3	3	S*
Western Kingbird	33	2	2	4	6(2)	2	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	4	1	4	12	9	-	S*
Cliff Swallow	-	6	2	5	24	-	S*
Scrub Jay	9	8	9	11	9	15	R*
American Crow	12	1	3	2	2	-	R*
Common Raven	10	3	3	7	10	4	R*
Plain Titmouse	7	1	-	4	1	5	R*
Bushtit	10	8	17	-	4	3	R*
Bewick's Wren	26	10	21	16	10	10	R*
House Wren	4	6	4	-	-	-	R*
Western Bluebird	2	-	-	-	-	-	R*
Swainson's Thrush	-	1	2	-	-	-	M
American Robin	-	1	-	-	-	-	R*
Wrentit	-	1	3	2	1	-	R*
N. Mockingbird	2	2	1	5	1	7	R*
Calif. Thrasher	2	2	3	4	1	3	R*
Phainopepla	-	2	8	5	6(2)	14(5)	R*
European Starling	17	6	4	12	1	9	R*
Warbling Vireo	-	5	-	-	-	-	M
Orange-cr. Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Nashville Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow Warbler	1	3	5	-	-	-	S*
Yellow- r. Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	W,M
MacGilliv. Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	M
Common Yellowthroat	5	2	3	-	-	1	R*

Table 6 (cont.). Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System, 1996: San Francisquito Creek for 2 Miles above Main Channel.

Species	date: 4/25	5/10	5/17	6/10	6/24	7/8	status
Wilson's Warbler	2	5	-	-	-	-	M
Yellow-br. Chat	-	3	-	1	-	-	S*
Western Tanager	1	4	-	-	-	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak	7	5	4	1	1	-	S*
Blue Grosbeak	4	2	3	1	2	1	S*
Lazuli Bunting	5	-	1	-	-	2	S*
Spotted Towhee	16	10	15	7	4	4	R*
California Towhee	34	8	16	5	6	8	R*
Rufous-cr. Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	R
Chipping Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	-	M
Lark Sparrow	3	-	-	-	-	1	R*
Song Sparrow	31	11	20	5	3	-	R*
Red-winged Blackbird	-	1	-	-	-	-	S*
Brown-headed Cowbird	46	13	11	6	1	-	S*
Hooded Oriole	1	-	-	-	-	-	S*
Bullock's Oriole	7	6	6	8	6(2)	2	S*
House Finch	37	5	12	29	19	57	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	15	13	15	18	9	30	R*
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	5	-	-	2	-	R*
American Goldfinch	4	6	-	-	-	-	W,M
Total Species:	47	47	39	34	37	30	
Total Individuals:	545	255	277	219	213	257	

Total Species on all visits: 64

Total Probable Breeding species: 51 (marked with *)

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only

() = dependent young birds

Censuses of 4/26, 5/17, 7/8 on the west side of river,
 Censuses of 5/20, 6/10, 6/24 on east side of river.

Table 7. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,
1996: South Fork from Rte. 126 to McBean Parkway.

Species	date: 5/6	6/17	status
Mallard	4 (5)	9	R*
American Kestrel	1	-	R*
California Quail	-	6	R*
Killdeer	8	4	R*
Mourning Dove	10	9	R*
Anna's Hummingbird	3	1	R*
Nuttall's Woodpecker	-	1	R*
Black Phoebe	3	3	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	2	1	S*
N. Rough-w. Swallow	3	30	S*
Cliff Swallow	-	60	S*
Scrub Jay	3	1	R*
American Crow	9	48	R*
Common Raven	-	9	R*
Bushtit	4	-	R*
Bewick's Wren	7	7	R*
N. Mockingbird	-	2	R*
Calif. Thrasher	1	2	R*
Loggerhead Shrike	-	1	
Yellow Warbler	8	-	S*
Black-headed Grosbeak	-	1	S*
Blue Grosbeak	-	1	S*
Spotted Towhee	4	-	R*
California Towhee	9	1	R*
Song Sparrow	3	8	R*
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	2	S*
Bullock's Oriole	-	2	S*
House Finch	4	16	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	1	-	R*
Total Species:	20	24	
Total Individuals:	93	227	

Total Species on all visits: 29

Total Probable Breeding species: 29 (marked with *)

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only

() = dependent young birds

Table 8. Bird Observations along the Santa Clara River System,
1996: South Fork from Newhall Creek to Rte. 126.

Species	date: 5/6	6/17	status
American Kestrel	1	-	R*
California Quail	8	8	R*
Killdeer	4	1	R*
Domestic Pigeon	5	-	R*
Mourning Dove	10	21	R*
Bl.-ch. Hummingbird	-	1	S*
Anna's Hummingbird	4	4	R*
Black Phoebe	5	2	R*
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	1	1	S*
Western Kingbird	2	-	S*
Scrub Jay	5	5	R*
American Crow	3	3	R*
Common Raven	-	2	R*
Bushtit	8	3	R*
Bewick's Wren	4	9	R*
N. Mockingbird	2	4	R*
Calif. Thrasher	-	1	R*
European Starling	-	2	R*
Yellow Warbler	4	-	S*
Wilson's Warbler	4	-	M
Western Tanager	4	-	M
Black-headed Grosbeak	1	-	S*
Spotted Towhee	3	1	R*
California Towhee	16	6	R*
Song Sparrow	9	2	R*
Brewer's Blackbird	1	9	R*
Hooded Oriole	1	-	S*
Bullock's Oriole	4	-	S*
House Finch	34	28	R*
Lesser Goldfinch	1	5	R*
House Sparrow	2	1	R*
Total Species:	27	22	
Total Individuals:	146	119	

Total Species on all visits: 31

Total Probable Breeding species: 29 (marked with *)

Status: M - Migrant; R - Resident; S - Summer Only; W - Winter Only

() = dependent young birds

If you have any questions regarding these survey guidelines, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (714) 643-4270.

8. A final report should be prepared which describes survey dates, methods, location, and information identified in items 4, 5, and 6 above.
7. No attempts should be made to locate or examine wire nests unless authorized by permits issued by California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
6. All sightings of cowbirds and their numbers in wire territories should be noted during each survey.
5. Data on wire breeding status (e.g., number and location of paired or unpaired territorial males, nest building efforts, feeding of nestlings, location of wire nests, etc.) should be noted during each survey.
4. All wire locations (e.g., vocalization points, areas used for foraging, etc.) should be used to define individual home ranges. These data need to be mapped on a large-scale aerial photograph.
3. Surveys shall be conducted between dawn and 11:00 a.m. Surveys shall avoid periods of excessive heat, wind, and rain.
2. Surveys must be conducted by qualified biologist(s) familiar with song and plumage characteristics of the wire.
1. All riparian areas should be surveyed once a week from April 1 to July 31. These dates encompass the period during which most wire nesting activity occurs. If additional information on wire habitat utilization is needed, these surveys should be extended to August 31. Information typically collected after July 31 will reflect a broader extent of the riparian habitat and other adjacent habitat types that the wire utilizes during the later phase of the breeding season, especially when the young become independent of the adults.

LEAST BELT'S WIRE SURVEY GUIDELINES

Appendix 1. Fish and Wildlife Rules for Least Belt's Wire Censuses.